

katherine johnson black history

Katherine Johnson Black History: Celebrating a Trailblazer in Science and Space

katherine johnson black history is a story of brilliance, perseverance, and breaking barriers. Her name may not have been widely known for decades, but her contributions to science and space exploration have left an indelible mark on history. As an African American mathematician working at NASA during a time of segregation and gender bias, Katherine Johnson's journey is not only inspiring but critical to understanding the broader narrative of black history in STEM fields. Let's delve into her life, her groundbreaking achievements, and why her story continues to resonate today.

The Early Life of Katherine Johnson

Katherine Johnson was born in 1918 in White Sulphur Springs, West Virginia. From a young age, she exhibited extraordinary mathematical talent. Despite the racial segregation of the era, her family and teachers encouraged her intellectual pursuits. Johnson's early education was marked by her remarkable ability to solve complex problems, a skill that would later become essential in her NASA career.

Her determination led her to West Virginia State College, a historically black college, where she excelled in mathematics and French. Graduating summa cum laude, she was one of the few African American women in her time to earn such honors in STEM. Her education set the foundation for her future work, but the path ahead was anything but easy.

Katherine Johnson's Career at NASA

Breaking Barriers in a Segregated Workplace

In 1953, Katherine Johnson began working at the National Advisory Committee for Aeronautics (NACA), which later became NASA. At the time, both racial segregation and gender discrimination were rampant. African American women were often relegated to the lowest-paying, least visible jobs. However, Johnson's extraordinary skill with numbers quickly distinguished her from her peers.

She was initially assigned to the West Area Computing unit, a group of black women tasked with performing complex calculations by hand. Johnson's brilliance, however, soon earned her assignments on critical projects that required her to perform trajectory analysis and orbital mechanics calculations for human spaceflights.

Calculating the Trajectory for John Glenn's Orbit

One of Johnson's most famous contributions was her work on John Glenn's historic 1962 orbital flight. Before Glenn's mission, NASA relied heavily on electronic computers to calculate flight trajectories, but Glenn personally requested that Johnson verify the computer's numbers by hand. This moment highlighted not only her mathematical precision but also the trust and respect she had earned in a male-dominated environment.

Her work ensured the success and safety of the mission, which was a pivotal moment in the space race and American history. Johnson's calculations helped lay the groundwork for future space exploration, including the Apollo moon missions.

The Impact of Katherine Johnson on Black History and STEM

Representation and Inspiration

Katherine Johnson's story is a powerful example of how African American women have contributed to science and technology, often without receiving the recognition they deserved. Her achievements broke down stereotypes and opened doors for future generations of black scientists, mathematicians, and engineers.

Her legacy is also a reminder of the importance of representation in STEM fields. Seeing a figure like Johnson succeed under challenging circumstances encourages young people, especially black girls, to pursue careers in science and math. This representation continues to fuel diversity initiatives in education and industry today.

Honors and Recognition

It wasn't until decades after her groundbreaking work that Katherine Johnson received widespread acknowledgment. In 2015, President Barack Obama awarded her the Presidential Medal of Freedom, one of the United States' highest civilian honors. NASA also named a computing facility in her honor, and her life story was popularized by the 2016 film **Hidden Figures**, which brought the contributions of Johnson and her colleagues to a global audience.

These recognitions not only celebrate her individual achievements but also shine a light on the often-overlooked contributions of African American women in the history of science and technology.

Lessons from Katherine Johnson's Life and Work

Katherine Johnson's journey offers valuable lessons beyond her technical expertise. Here are some insights inspired by her story:

- **Persistence in the Face of Adversity:** Johnson's ability to thrive despite racial and gender barriers teaches the importance of resilience.
- **Passion for Learning:** Her lifelong love of mathematics underscores how passion can fuel extraordinary achievements.
- **Collaboration and Trust:** Gaining the trust of her colleagues and superiors, like John Glenn, highlights the role of interpersonal skills in professional success.
- **Breaking Stereotypes:** Johnson's success challenges outdated notions about who can excel in STEM.

Katherine Johnson's Role in the Broader Context of Black History

Katherine Johnson's achievements intersect with the civil rights movement and the ongoing struggle for racial equality. Her story exemplifies how African Americans have contributed significantly to the nation's progress, often under difficult circumstances. By excelling in a field dominated by white men, Johnson became a quiet but powerful symbol of black excellence.

Her presence at NASA during the height of segregation also serves as a reminder of the systemic challenges black professionals faced—and continue to face—in American institutions. Her legacy not only enriches black history but also informs contemporary conversations about equity and inclusion in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics.

The Importance of Celebrating Black Women in STEM

Katherine Johnson's story highlights a broader need to recognize black women's contributions to STEM fields historically and today. These women have often been invisible in mainstream narratives, yet their work has been crucial. By celebrating pioneers like Johnson, society gains a more comprehensive understanding of history and a richer pool of role models for future innovators.

Efforts to integrate black history with STEM education are vital. They inspire students to appreciate diversity in science and encourage young people from marginalized communities to envision themselves as future leaders in these fields.

Katherine Johnson's remarkable life and career continue to inspire and educate. Her story is a testament to the power of intellect, courage, and determination, woven deeply into the fabric of black history and the advancement of human knowledge. Her legacy lives on, reminding us that greatness can emerge from the most challenging circumstances and that every contribution matters in the collective progress of humanity.

Frequently Asked Questions

Who was Katherine Johnson and why is she significant in Black history?

Katherine Johnson was an African American mathematician whose calculations of orbital mechanics were critical to the success of NASA's early space missions. She broke racial and gender barriers, making significant contributions during the Space Race.

What were some of Katherine Johnson's major contributions to NASA?

Katherine Johnson calculated trajectories, launch windows, and emergency return paths for missions including John Glenn's first American orbital flight and the Apollo 11 moon landing, ensuring their success and safety.

How did Katherine Johnson's work impact the civil rights movement and opportunities for Black women?

Katherine Johnson's achievements challenged segregation and gender discrimination, inspiring future generations of Black women to pursue careers in STEM fields and contributing to broader civil rights progress.

What honors and recognitions has Katherine Johnson received for her work?

Katherine Johnson received numerous honors including the Presidential Medal of Freedom in 2015, a NASA research facility named after her, and she was portrayed in the film 'Hidden Figures' which highlighted her contributions.

What was the significance of the film 'Hidden Figures' in relation to Katherine Johnson's legacy?

The film 'Hidden Figures' brought widespread recognition to Katherine Johnson and her colleagues, showcasing their critical roles at NASA and highlighting issues of racial and gender inequality in science and technology.

How did Katherine Johnson's education contribute to her success in mathematics and NASA?

Katherine Johnson excelled academically, graduating summa cum laude from West Virginia State College with degrees in mathematics and French, which provided a strong foundation for her groundbreaking work as a NASA mathematician.

Additional Resources

Katherine Johnson Black History: A Trailblazer in STEM and Space Exploration

katherine johnson black history represents an essential chapter in the story of American innovation and civil rights. As an African American mathematician whose calculations were critical to the success of NASA's early space missions, Johnson's contributions have become synonymous with breaking racial and gender barriers in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM). Her legacy illuminates the intersection of race, gender, and scientific achievement during a pivotal era in American history.

The Early Life and Educational Background of Katherine Johnson

Katherine Johnson was born in 1918 in White Sulphur Springs, West Virginia, a time and place steeped in segregation and limited opportunities for African Americans, particularly women. Despite these systemic obstacles, Johnson exhibited prodigious mathematical talent from an early age. She attended West Virginia State College, a historically black college, where she excelled in mathematics and graduated summa cum laude in 1937.

Her educational achievements were remarkable given the era's pervasive racial discrimination. Johnson's academic excellence set the stage for her eventual recruitment to NASA's predecessor, the National Advisory Committee for Aeronautics (NACA), in 1953. Her entry into this predominantly white, male-dominated environment was a testament to her exceptional skills and determination.

Katherine Johnson's Role at NASA and Impact on Space Exploration

Johnson's work at NASA involved complex manual calculations, which were crucial before the age of digital computers. She was responsible for verifying the trajectories, launch windows, and emergency return paths for space missions, including the historic Mercury and Apollo programs.

Calculating the Trajectory for John Glenn's Orbital Flight

One of Johnson's most celebrated contributions was her role in calculating the trajectory for John Glenn's 1962 orbital mission aboard Friendship 7. Glenn famously requested that Johnson personally verify the computer-generated calculations, underscoring the high level of trust and respect she commanded. Her mathematical precision helped ensure that Glenn's spacecraft would safely orbit Earth and return, marking a significant milestone in the Space Race.

Contributions Beyond Orbital Calculations

Johnson's expertise extended beyond mere trajectory calculations. She was involved in the development of computer software for NASA and contributed to the planning of the Apollo 11 mission, which culminated in the first human moon landing in 1969. Her work had a ripple effect, influencing the success of later space missions and the advancement of aeronautics.

Katherine Johnson Black History and Breaking Barriers

Johnson's career is emblematic of broader social progress in America. As an African American woman working in a segregated and male-dominated field during the mid-20th century, she confronted and overcame significant obstacles. Her story sheds light on the intersectional challenges of race and gender discrimination in STEM fields.

Challenges Faced by African American Women in STEM

During Johnson's early career, African American women often faced exclusion from educational and professional opportunities. Segregated schools, limited access to advanced degrees, and workplace discrimination were common. Johnson's success disrupted these patterns, offering a model for future generations.

The Significance of Johnson's Recognition

Despite her critical role in NASA's achievements, Johnson—and many of her contemporaries—remained largely unrecognized until late in life. It was not until the 2016 film "Hidden Figures" and subsequent public honors, including the Presidential Medal of Freedom awarded by Barack Obama in 2015, that her contributions received widespread acknowledgment. This recognition has helped to correct historical narratives that often marginalized the roles of black women in scientific progress.

Legacy and Influence on Future Generations

Katherine Johnson's legacy extends beyond her mathematical genius; she has become a symbol of perseverance, excellence, and the breaking of societal barriers. Her life story continues to inspire educational initiatives and diversity efforts in STEM fields.

Educational Outreach and Encouraging Diversity

Many organizations and institutions now use Johnson's story to promote STEM education among underrepresented groups. Scholarships, STEM programs, and public exhibits commemorate her

achievements. This focus aligns with ongoing efforts to increase diversity and inclusion in science and technology sectors.

Comparative Impact in NASA's History

When compared to other prominent NASA figures, Johnson stands out not only for her technical contributions but also for her role as a pioneer in social change within the agency. While astronauts like Neil Armstrong are celebrated for their spaceflights, Johnson's behind-the-scenes work was equally vital to mission success and represents a transformative moment in organizational culture.

Understanding Katherine Johnson's Mathematical Approach

Johnson's expertise was rooted in classical mathematics, including analytic geometry and numerical analysis. She skillfully translated complex physical phenomena into mathematical models, ensuring the accuracy of trajectories and flight paths.

- **Manual Calculations:** Before widespread computer use, Johnson performed labor-intensive computations by hand, demonstrating remarkable precision.
- **Verification of Computer Outputs:** Early computers were prone to errors; Johnson's verification ensured reliability.
- **Development of Algorithms:** Her input influenced the programming of computational tools used by NASA.

This blend of traditional mathematical skill and adaptability to emerging technologies illustrates Johnson's unique position at the crossroads of computational evolution.

Reflecting on Katherine Johnson Black History in Contemporary Context

The narrative of Katherine Johnson black history is one of resilience and excellence against systemic adversity. It invites reflection on ongoing issues related to diversity in STEM and the acknowledgment of contributions by minority scientists.

In contemporary discussions about equity and representation, Johnson's story serves as both a reminder of past injustices and a beacon for future possibilities. Institutions today continue to grapple with increasing access and opportunities for underrepresented groups, making Johnson's legacy profoundly relevant.

Her life and work underscore the importance of recognizing and cultivating talent regardless of race or gender, ultimately enriching scientific inquiry and innovation. As the STEM community seeks to broaden participation, Katherine Johnson's example remains a powerful testament to the value of inclusion and perseverance.

Katherine Johnson Black History

katherine johnson black history: Timelines from Black History DK, 2021-01-19 Amazing visual timelines take readers through the people and the issues that have shaped Black history Erased. Ignored. Hidden. Lost. Underappreciated. No longer. Delve into the unique, inspiring, and world-changing history of Black people. From Frederick Douglass to Oprah Winfrey, and the achievements of ancient African kingdoms to those of the US Civil Rights Movement, *Timelines From Black History: Leaders, Legends, Legacies* takes kids on an exceptional journey from prehistory to modern times. This DK children's ebook boasts more than 30 visual timelines, which explore the biographies of the famous and the not-so-famous - from royalty to activists, and writers to scientists, and much, much more. Stunning thematic timelines also explain the development of Black history - from the experiences of black people in the US, to the story of postcolonial Africa. Did you know that the richest person ever to have lived was a West African? Or that the technology that made the lightbulb possible was developed by African American inventor, and not Thomas Edison? How about the fact that Ethiopia was the only African country to avoid colonization, thanks to the leadership of a brave queen? Stacked with facts and visually vibrant, *Timelines From Black History: Leaders, Legends, Legacies* is an unforgettable and accessible hive of information on the people and the issues that have shaped Black history.

katherine johnson black history: Little Leaders: Bold Women in Black History Vashti Harrison, 2017-12-05 #1 NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLER Meet the little leaders. They're brave. They're bold. They changed the world. Featuring 40 trailblazing black women in history, this book educates and inspires as it relates true stories of women who broke boundaries and exceeded all expectations, including: Nurse Mary Seacole Politician Diane Abbott Mathematician Katherine Johnson Singer Shirley Bassey Bestselling author and artist Vashti Harrison pairs captivating text and beautiful illustrations as she tells the stories of both iconic and lesser-known female figures. Among these biographies, readers will find heroes, role models, and everyday women who did extraordinary things.

katherine johnson black history: My Remarkable Journey Katherine Johnson, Joylette Hylick, Katherine Moore, 2024-06-11 The woman at the heart of the smash hit *Hidden Figures* tells the full story of her life and her NASA career: Wonderful. — Library Journal (starred review) In 2015, at age 97, Katherine Johnson became a global celebrity. President Barack Obama awarded her the Presidential Medal of Freedom—the nation's highest civilian honor—for her pioneering work as a mathematician during NASA's first flights into space. Her contributions to America's space program were celebrated in a blockbuster Academy Award-nominated movie. In this memoir, Katherine shares her personal journey from child prodigy in the Allegheny Mountains of West Virginia to NASA human computer. In her life after retirement, she served as a beacon of light for her family and community alike. Her story is centered around the basic tenets of her life—no one is better than you, education is paramount, and asking questions can break barriers. This multidimensional portrait is also the record of a century of racial history that reveals the influential role educators at segregated schools and Historically Black Colleges and Universities played in nurturing the dreams of trailblazers like Katherine. The author pays homage to her mentor—the African American professor who inspired her to become a research mathematician despite having his own dream crushed by racism. Infused with the uplifting wisdom of a woman who handled great fame with genuine humility

and great tragedy with enduring hope, *My Remarkable Journey* brings into focus a determined woman who navigated tough terrain with soft-spoken grace—and the unrelenting grit required to make history and inspire future generations. Katherine Johnson's personal story never gets old, and never fails to inspire. —Margot Lee Shetterly, New York Times bestselling author of *Hidden Figures*
Truly a lovely read . . . an important addition to every bookshelf devoted to great Americans. —
Booklist (starred review)

katherine johnson black history: Black History In Its Own Words Ronald Wimberly, 2017-02-08 A look at Black History framed by those who made it. BLACK HISTORY IN ITS OWN WORDS presents quotes of dozens of black luminaries with portraits & illustrations by RONALD WIMBERLY. Featuring the memorable words and depictions of Angela Davis, Jean-Michel Basquiat, Kanye West, Zadie Smith, Ice Cube, Dave Chappelle, James Baldwin, Spike Lee, and more.

katherine johnson black history: Silent History Dr. Gregory Hinds, 2025-03-07 This book illuminates the often overlooked contributions of Black figures throughout history, from ancient African civilizations to contemporary movements like Black Lives Matter. By weaving together narratives of resilience, resistance, and excellence, it highlights significant yet underrepresented individuals and events that shaped not only Black history but the broader human experience. The exploration begins with the rich legacies of ancient African civilizations, such as the kingdom of Mali and the Great Zimbabwe, showcasing leaders like Mansa Musa, whose wealth and wisdom influenced global trade networks (Levtzion and Hopkins 2000). As the narrative transitions to the transatlantic slave trade, it unearths the stories of enslaved Africans who resisted their subjugation, exemplified by figures like Olaudah Equiano, whose autobiography brought awareness to the horrors of slavery (Equiano 1789). The book further examines Black military contributions, emphasizing the valor of soldiers in the Civil War, such as the Fifty-Fourth Massachusetts Regiment, and their crucial roles in shaping the fight for freedom (Horton and Horton 2005). It delves into the antebellum and Civil War periods, highlighting the abolitionist efforts of individuals like Frederick Douglass and Harriet Tubman. The narrative continues through the Great Migration and the Jim Crow era, showcasing the resilience of Black communities and the cultural explosion of the Harlem Renaissance, featuring luminaries like Langston Hughes and Zora Neale Hurston (Lewis 1981). The civil rights movement is presented through the lens of grassroots activism, spotlighting figures like Ella Baker and Bayard Rustin, whose contributions have often been overshadowed by more prominent leaders (Fairclough 2001). In examining international Black history, the book connects local struggles to global movements, emphasizing the Pan-African connections that have influenced social justice efforts worldwide. It concludes by celebrating the ongoing legacy of Black excellence in the arts and sciences, highlighting contemporary figures who continue to break barriers and inspire future generations. By reclaiming these narratives, this book aims to provide a comprehensive understanding of Black history that honors the contributions of individuals who have shaped the past and continue to inspire the future.

katherine johnson black history: A State-by-State History of Race and Racism in the United States Patricia Reid-Merritt, 2018-12-07 Providing chronologies of important events, historical narratives from the first settlement to the present, and biographies of major figures, this work offers readers an unseen look at the history of racism from the perspective of individual states. From the initial impact of European settlement on indigenous populations to the racial divides caused by immigration and police shootings in the 21st century, each American state has imposed some form of racial restriction on its residents. The United States proclaims a belief in freedom and justice for all, but members of various minority racial groups have often faced a different reality, as seen in such examples as the forcible dispossession of indigenous peoples during the Trail of Tears, Jim Crow laws' crushing discrimination of blacks, and the manifest unfairness of the Chinese Exclusion Act. Including the District of Columbia, the 51 entries in these two volumes cover the state-specific histories of all of the major minority and immigrant groups in the United States, including African Americans, Hispanics, Asian Americans, and Native Americans. Every state has had a unique experience in attempting to build a community comprising multiple racial groups, and the

chronologies, narratives, and biographies that compose the entries in this collection explore the consequences of racism from states' perspectives, revealing distinct new insights into their respective racial histories.

katherine johnson black history: Racism in American Public Life Johnnetta Betsch Cole, 2021-02-16 For some in our society, diversity is a threat. Others feel society should be more inclusive, if only out of fairness. But as Johnnetta Cole argues in her new book, embracing diversity and inclusiveness is more than a virtuous ideal; it is essential to a healthy, productive society. Focusing on higher education and other arenas of cultural development, Cole explores our institutions' vulnerability to the influence of racism and the wider implications for American society. At the core of Cole's argument is the belief that increasing the representation of historically marginalized groups on college campuses, and in museums, media, and other institutions is, like the liberal arts, vitally important to social progress. Accompanying Cole's urgent calls to implement social change are vividly rendered experiences from her own remarkable life. Cole issues a challenge for courageous conversations about race and racism and places unique responsibility and accountability on institutions of higher education in leading these conversations.

katherine johnson black history: *The Humanity Archive* Jermaine Fowler, 2023-02-28 This sweeping survey of Black history shows how Black humanity has been erased and how its recovery can save the humanity of us all. Using history as a foundation, The Humanity Archive uses storytelling techniques to make history come alive and uncover the truth behind America's whitewashed history. The Humanity Archive focuses on the overlooked narratives in the pages of the past. Challenging dominant perspectives, author Jermaine Fowler goes outside the textbooks to find recognizably human stories. Connecting current issues with the heroic struggles of those who have come before us, Fowler brings hidden history to light. Praise for *The Humanity Archive: From the African Slave Trade to Seneca Village to Biddy Mason and more*, The Humanity Archive is a very enriching read on the history of Blackness around the world. I was hooked by Fowler's storytelling and would recommend others who want to pore over a book that outlines critical moments in history—without putting you to sleep. — Philip Lewis, Senior Editor, HuffPost Fowler sees historical storytelling and the sharing of knowledge as a vocation and a means of fostering empathy and understanding between cultures. A deft storyteller with a sonorous voice, Fowler's passion for his material is palpable as he unfurls the hidden histories. — Vanity Fair Born in Louisville, Kentucky, Jermaine Fowler is a storyteller and self-proclaimed intellectual adventurer who spent his youth seeking knowledge on the shelves of his local free public library. Between research and lecturing, he is the host of the top-rated history podcast, *The Humanity Archive*, praised as a must-listen by Vanity Fair. Challenging dominant perspectives, Fowler goes outside the textbooks to find recognizably human stories. Connecting current issues with the heroic struggles of those who've come before us, he brings hidden history to light and makes it powerfully relevant.

katherine johnson black history: *The Book of Awesome Black Americans* Monique Jones, 2020-01-14 "Activists and rap stars, abolitionists and pioneers, inventors and scientists surge with life throughout this thrilling and comprehensive work." —Jennifer Maritza McCauley, National Endowment for the Arts Fellow A #1 Bestseller in Teen & Young Adult 21st Century U.S. History We are familiar with a handful of African Americans who are mentioned in American history books, but there are also countless others who do not get recognized in mainstream media. Their actions may not have appeared to shake the world, but their contributions to shifting American culture were just as groundbreaking. The achievements of the Black Americans included in this book range from athletic to artistic, literary to scientific. Their biographies vary greatly, but each one contributes to the course of Black history and its influence on the greater world. Their stories encourage readers, especially teenage boys and girls, to find their own path to change. Monique L. Jones's *The Book of Awesome Black Americans* is more than a Black history book. It's a celebration of Black people. In this book, you will find: Amazing role models who brought on change by using their gifts and passions to overcome societal barriers Stories mainstream media failed to mention that are sure to inspire, motivate, and educate readers of all backgrounds Testimonies that demonstrate how

American culture thrives when it celebrates diversity and promotes inclusiveness “Belongs on every coffee table in America. Monique Jones packs her book with astonishing stories of bravery, grit, and joy. The astonishing anecdotes of overlooked personalities and heroes will ensure you never look at history the same again. Who says history has to be boring?” —Li Lai, founder of Mediaversity Reviews

katherine johnson black history: Supporting Students’ Intellectual Freedom in Schools: The Right to Read Sachdeva, Danielle E., Hull, Samantha L., Kimmel, Sue C., Whitaker, Westry A., 2023-12-21 In today's developing view of education, a disquieting trend looms—the erosion of students' right to choose what they read. This erosion, fueled by an alarming surge in censorship attempts, casts a shadow over the very essence of intellectual exploration. Recent years have witnessed an unprecedented number of challenges aimed at restricting access to books, targeting themes that embrace human diversity, inclusivity, and the tapestry of life itself. As educators, administrators, and scholars grapple with this critical juncture, *Supporting Students’ Intellectual Freedom in Schools: The Right to Read* serves as a comprehensive resource they can turn to for support and knowledge. This book is a call to action, resonating with teachers, school librarians, administrators, and scholars who refuse to let censorship erode the foundations of education. As censorship attempts proliferate, its chapters offer fortification, providing educators at all levels with the tools to safeguard students' intellectual freedom. From the hallowed halls of academia to the vibrant classrooms of K-12, the insights within these pages shape curricula, conversations, and a collective commitment to nurturing minds that thrive on diversity and inquiry. In a world clamoring for unwavering advocates of intellectual freedom, *Supporting Students’ Intellectual Freedom in Schools* is not just a solution—it is a declaration of resolute solidarity in the pursuit of knowledge and the unassailable right to read.

katherine johnson black history: Chain Letter to America: the One Thing You Can Do to End Racism Jacques Fleury, 2019-10-10 What this book is about is raising conscious awareness to our collective humanity and respective contributions to our country, with added focus on our multiculturalism and fundamentally our shared...constitutional ideology: that we are all created equal... In the midst of political and racial divisions in America, I heard a republican congressman speaking to the media, he said: “With open eyes, open ears, open mind and you walk away with some understanding...” while honoring our first amendment right to freedom of expression...through open minded and open hearted conversations... If you take one thing away from reading this book, I hope it’s that our numerous races, ethnicities, beliefs and values manifested through comparative historical and contextual exploration can serve as a miscible advantage or a harmonious mixture when added together ... a reconciliatory nod to our past and a meditative extrapolation, interjection and celebration of our ...United States or ‘US’. Enjoy!” Praise for Jacques Fleury’s “Chain Letter to America...” “A powerful strike on the doors of Justice. The courageous author painted his vision, and suggested understanding and consciousness of our historic and present social reality. Before anybody from any medical society in the Roman Empire, a descendant of a slave performed the first major open heart surgery in America. There is an axiom: ‘Know the cause of the illness, and you will be able to apply the proper medicine.’ I know this: When we understand that we are the Human Race, there will be no place on Earth for Eris and Ares. Please, keep fueling the wings of Your Quill, and let the world know that it soars safely ~ blown by winds of reality, and aesthetical light. In reverent appreciation...” —Andre Emmanuel Bendavi ben-YEHU --Poet, Translator “Quite a tirade of prose and poetry of the state of the United States in the early 21st century. I thought we would be beyond all that, but it has come back to haunt us. I was enthralled with every word. Jacques Fleury’s scholarship and writing ability are far above the average. Really worth paying attention to...a metaphor for refugees from all kinds of calamities trying to find a safe place, a calm place in their life where they can rest and think of the life around them... Inspiring words about the harshness and beauty... all around us ... Fleury really said a load in this broadly sweeping exposé of modern life awakening. It’s good to see his superlative writing again... Kudos!” —Ronald W. Hull, Ed.D, Author of *Hanging by a Thread* “I grew up in a black, white, and yellow world... Differences in color and

nationality are what makes life interesting. I go to a very diverse church because I know that's what Heaven is going to be like... as for color, I am not blind but I am so grateful the Lord made us diverse as it's a blessing and not a curse. In His eyes, all of us matter. I Praise Him for giving me such wisdom." — Dr. John M. Domino Author of *Reflections from the Great Depression and WWII* "Polarization and violence in our country make increasingly urgent a greater understanding of our history. No one can confidently predict that things will return to 'normal', or that non-racist forces will seamlessly replace President Trump after his one or two terms in office. So what lessons and what inspiration from our past can we draw upon to help us in our present circumstance?" —Neil Calendar, Adjunct Professor of English, Roxbury Community College

katherine johnson black history: *Zyla & Kai* Kristina Forest, 2022-06-07 A fresh love story about the will they, won't they—and why can't they—of first love. While on a school trip to the Poconos Mountains (in the middle of a storm) high school seniors, Zyla Matthews and Kai Johnson, run away together leaving their friends and family confused. As far as everyone knows, Zyla and Kai have been broken up for months. And honestly? Their break up hadn't surprised anyone. Zyla and Kai met while working together at an amusement park the previous summer, and they couldn't have been more different. Zyla was a cynic about love. She'd witnessed the dissolution of her parents' marriage early in life, and it left an indelible impression. Her only aim was graduating and going to fashion school abroad. Until she met Kai. Kai was a serial dater and a hopeless romantic. He'd put a temporary pause on his dating life before senior year to focus on school and getting into his dream HBCU. Until he met Zyla. Alternating between the past and present, we see the love story unfold from Zyla's and Kai's perspectives: how they first became the unlikelyst of friends over the summer, how they fell in love during the school year, and why they ultimately broke up... Or did they? Romantic, heart-stirring, and a little mysterious, *Zyla & Kai* will keep readers guessing until the last chapter.

katherine johnson black history: *Make Your Own History* Joseph H. Holland, 2023-10-24 Celebrating the vast breadth and scope of Black excellence, *Make Your Own History* shares success principles exemplified by 120 Black unsung heroes who have blazed trails throughout American history. One hundred and twenty Black leaders, innovators, and entrepreneurs share their wisdom and experience across the centuries in *Make Your Own History*, an inspiring collection of exemplary Black voices—past and present, familiar and unsung—which have the power to guide us today. *Make Your Own History* gathers together motivational quotes, historical contexts, and enlightening precepts from Black trailblazers spanning the eighteenth century to the present. These insights encompass twelve central themes: courage, self-discipline, compassion, perseverance, teamwork, integrity, industriousness, self-reliance, optimism, purposefulness, civility, and faith. These vigorous virtues will: *Deepen your courage through journalist Ida B. Wells' strategic activism in the face of professional and personal peril . . . *Fuel your perseverance through tennis superstar Serena Williams' journey to 23 Grand Slam singles titles . . . *Spark optimism through poet Langston Hughes' work as an artistic and intellectual catalyst for the Harlem Renaissance . . . Through these perspectives and so many more, *Make Your Own History* serves not only as an uplifting historical resource, but also as a spiritual road map for the life-long journey of purposefully setting and meeting personal goals. These pioneers are more than historic examples of Black excellence; their unique lives highlight universal truths that will inspire all readers to achieve great success and make their own history.

katherine johnson black history: *Ebony Jr.* , 1981-02 Created by the publishers of EBONY. During its years of publishing it was the largest ever children-focused publication for African Americans.

katherine johnson black history: *Black Culture, Inc.* Patricia A. Banks, 2022-04-19 A surprising and fascinating look at how Black culture has been leveraged by corporate America. Open the brochure for the Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater, and you'll see logos for corporations like American Express. Visit the website for the Apollo Theater, and you'll notice acknowledgments to corporations like Coca Cola and Citibank. The Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial and the National

Museum of African American History and Culture, owe their very existence to large corporate donations from companies like General Motors. And while we can easily make sense of the need for such funding to keep cultural spaces afloat, less obvious are the reasons that corporations give to them. In *Black Culture, Inc.*, Patricia A. Banks interrogates the notion that such giving is completely altruistic, and argues for a deeper understanding of the hidden transactions being conducted that render corporate America dependent on Black culture. Drawing on a range of sources, such as public relations and advertising texts on corporate cultural patronage and observations at sponsored cultural events, Banks argues that Black cultural patronage profits firms by signaling that they value diversity, equity, and inclusion. By functioning in this manner, support of Black cultural initiatives affords these companies something called diversity capital, an increasingly valuable commodity in today's business landscape. While this does not necessarily detract from the social good that cultural patronage does, it reveals its secret cost: ethnic community support may serve to obscure an otherwise poor track record with social justice. Banks deftly weaves innovative theory with detailed observations and a discerning critical gaze at the various agendas infiltrating memorials, museums, and music festivals meant to celebrate Black culture. At a time when accusations of discriminatory practices are met with immediate legal and social condemnation, the insights offered here are urgent and necessary.

katherine johnson black history: Becoming a Multicultural Educator William A. Howe, Penelope L. Lisi, 2023-08-30 *Becoming a Multicultural Educator*, Fourth Edition focuses on the development and application of research-based curriculum, instruction, and assessment strategies for multicultural education in PK-12 classrooms. This practical book prepares readers to teach in culturally responsive ways, develop a critical understanding of culture and its powerful influence on teaching and learning, and feel empowered to confront and address timely issues.

katherine johnson black history: The Life and Times of a Black Garage Door Guy V Leigh, 2020-09-17 *The Life and Times Of A Black Garage Door Guy*, is an anecdotal journey spanning the human condition from: pathos to comedy, inhumanity to empathy, unawareness to enlightenment.

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